

**Indiana Commission on Rehabilitation Services
Report on the Effectiveness of the
Vocational Rehabilitation Services Program
FFY 2007**

5,046 Individuals with Disabilities Employed

The 5,046 persons employed in 2007 as a result of VR services was a decrease of 570 individuals from the total employed in the year 2006. This translates into a 10.2% decrease. This large decrease follows previously documented dramatic decrease of 17.3% 2006 leading to a total of 915 fewer rehabilitants. These decreases are attributed to VR changing their policies to decrease the numbers of individuals eligible for restorative services, in particularly hearing aids.

Also of note is the fact toward the end of this fiscal year as in 2006 VR realized it was in jeopardy of returning to the federal government several million dollars in unspent funds. VR chose to continue funding of "Maintenance of Effort" (MOE) grants by distributing proposals for funding encompassing specific areas including school to work, improved service delivery, outreach and program innovation. Applicants for these grants had to document how they would continue to provide the stated services into the future without financial support from VR. Thirty-seven agencies including rehabilitation facilities, mental health centers, and independent living centers were awarded monies to implement their proposals. VR plans to complete follow along reviews on these grants to verify implementation and identify long term outcomes. Of the 5,046 individuals employed this year through VR services, 4,874 or 96.6% were placed into competitive jobs. This is above the 95.9% of individuals placed in competitive jobs in 2006.

It is also quite significant to note (refer to Performance Standard 1.2), that Indiana's 2007 "new Rehabilitation Rate", the total number of rehabilitations divided by the sum of the number of rehabilitations plus the number of Status 28 closures, showed a 1 percentage point decrease over the FY 2006 performance rate of 59.2%.

Performance on Federal Evaluation Standards

Performance Indicator 1.1 The total number of rehabilitations recorded in the current Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) compared to the previous year's total.

Standard: Equal or exceed previous performance period.

During FFY 2007 Indiana recorded 5,046 rehabilitations as compared to 5,616 in FFY 2006. This 10.1% decrease of 570 rehabilitations is below standard.

Performance Indicator 1.2 The total number of rehabilitations divided by the sum of the number of rehabilitations plus the number of Status 28 closures (the New Rehabilitation Rate).

Standard: 55.8%.

During FFY 2007 Indiana achieved a New Rehabilitation Rate of 58.2%, which was above standard. This rate represents a 1.0 percentage point decrease over the FFY 2006 performance of 59.2%.

Performance Indicator 1.3 (Primary) The percentage of rehabilitants who achieve a competitive employment outcome with an hourly wage at or above the FFY 2007 Federal Minimum Wage of \$5.15. Competitive employment includes self and Business Enterprise Program employment.

Standard: 72.6%.

During FFY 2007 96.6% of Indiana's rehabilitants were closed in competitive employment earning at least the Federal Minimum Wage. Indiana's percent exceeded the standard by 24.0 percentage points which satisfied the performance requirement. It also represents a slight 0.7 of a percentage point increase over Indiana's FFY 2006 percentage.

Performance Indicator 1.4 (Primary) The percentage of all competitively placed rehabilitants earning at least the Federal Minimum Wage who have significant disabilities.

Standard: 62.4%.

In FFY 2007 76.9% of Indiana's competitively placed rehabilitants earning at least the Federal Minimum Wage had significant disabilities. This figure exceeds the standard by 14.5 percentage points, which satisfied this performance requirement. This year's percentage represents a 9.2 percentage point increase from last year's percentage of 67.7%.

Performance Indicator 1.5 (Primary) The ratio between the average hourly wage of competitive rehabilitants making at least the Federal Minimum Wage and the State of Indiana's average hourly wage for all employed individuals. In the last three quarters of 2006 and first quarter of 2007, the latest period for which wage data are available, the State of Indiana's average hourly wage was \$17.71.

Standard: 0.52 (Ratio).

The average hourly wage for Indiana's FFY 2007 competitive rehabilitants making at least the Federal Minimum Wage was \$10.83. Dividing \$10.83 by \$17.71 yields a ratio of 0.61, which exceeds the standard of 0.52. Therefore, this performance requirement

was satisfied. By comparison, in FFY 2006 the average hourly wage of competitive rehabilitants was \$11.56, and the State of Indiana's average hourly wage was \$17.04, producing a ratio of 0.68. Thus, rehabilitant wages in FFY 2007 declined slightly from FFY 2006 while the State of Indiana average hourly wage rose, resulting in a decline in the ratio from 0.68 in FFY06 to 0.61 in FFY07.

Performance Indicator 1.6 The difference between the percentages of competitively placed rehabilitants making at least the Federal Minimum Wage who say their personal income was their largest single source of support at case closure and those who say their personal income was their largest single source of support when they applied for services. Personal income includes earnings, rent, interest, and dividends.

Standard: 53.0 (mathematical difference).

During FFY 2007 75.6% of the competitively placed rehabilitants earning at least the Federal Minimum Wage said that their personal income was their largest single source of support at closure. At application 35.4% of this group reported that personal income was their largest single source of support. The difference between these two percentages was 40.2, which is smaller than the 53.0 standard for this indicator. Therefore, Indiana failed to achieve this performance requirement.

By comparison, during FFY 2006 79.4% of the competitively placed rehabilitants earning at least the Federal Minimum Wage said that their personal income was their largest single source of support at closure. At application 45.5% of this group reported that personal income was their largest single source of support. The difference between these two percentages was 33.9. This represents a FFY 2007 6.3 percentage points increase over Indiana's FFY 2006 percentage.

Performance Indicator 2.1 The ratio of the service rate for minorities to the service rate for whites. The service rate for minorities is obtained by dividing the number of minorities who exited the program after receiving services under an IPE by the total number of minorities who exited the program. Similarly, the service rate for whites is obtained by dividing the number of whites who exited the program after receiving services under an IPE by the total number of whites who exited the program (i.e. $[26's+28's]/[02-08's+06-08's+26's+28's+30's]$).

Standard: 0.80 (Ratio).

The service rate for minorities during FFY 2007 was 50.3%. Similarly, the service rate for whites was 59.6% for the same time period. Dividing the minority service rate by the white service rate yields a ratio of 0.85, which is greater than the standard of 0.80. Consequently, Indiana satisfied this performance requirement.

By comparison, the service rate for minorities in FFY 2006 was 54.0% while the service rate for whites was 62.7%. Consequently, dividing the minority rate by the white rate

yielded a ratio of 0.86. This represents a FFY 2007 0.1 of a percentage point slight decrease from the FFY 2006 percentage.

Summary

Since Indiana's performance equaled or exceeded standard on four of the six employment outcome indicators, including all three primary indicators, and exceeded the standard for the equal access indicator, it has avoided participating in an improvement plan for FFY 2007.